

branches or base commanders. This can be a maddening bureaucracy for support workers requiring routine base access to do their jobs.

The "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act" would create an overarching set of access standards for civilians with legitimate need to access military installations on a recurring basis or for a scheduled purpose. For example, the bill would allow truckers delivering household goods for military families to use their Transportation Worker Identification Credentials, which is issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and requires passing a federal background check, for proving their identity to get on base. The bill would also require that the U.S. Department of Defense provide expedited, unescorted base access privileges for veterans accessing services at the installation, civilians working at a construction job site on base, State labor regulators for applicable workers' compensation or minimum wage laws, and members of federally recognized labor-management committees.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I know full well that our military installations are secure for a good reason. However, for those civilians who are already appropriately vetted and cleared, we must ease the bureaucratic hurdles for base access so they can do their job in support of our nation's military, military families, and veterans. Military bases can maintain the highest level of scrutiny for those seeking access while still equalizing the requirements across the nation. The "Base Access Privileges Improvement Act" would ensure just that.

RYAN RUSSO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last Sunday, I had the honor of attending the Olympiad at Beth Israel congregation in remembrance of the 50-year anniversary of the Munich massacre. Ryan Russo was nominated to receive the Olympiad Student Athlete Award at the event. Ryan is an impressive student-athlete who excelled in the classroom, in the pool, and on the track at Vineland High School. During his senior year season, he suffered an injury that restricted him from playing. However, Ryan remained positive and committed to his teams. He is a true leader and an ambassador for his community, school, and his teams, serving as a role model for many underclassmen. Ryan should be very proud of his contributions to the Vineland High School community, and I am glad that I was able to meet him at the event last weekend. God Bless Ryan, and God Bless our America.

HONORING SGT. THOMAS H.
COREY, VIETNAM VETERAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Thomas H. Corey, a decorated Vietnam War Veteran and beloved advocate for veteran's rights. Sergeant Corey passed away at the age of 77, on June 6, 2022, in Jupiter, Florida, due to complications from injuries sustained during the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Corey served as a U.S. Army combat infantryman and squad leader in Vietnam. In January 1968, in Quang Tri Province, he was shot in his spinal cord while engaging the enemy, leaving him paralyzed and quadriplegic. For his service and heroism, Sergeant Corey was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After medically retiring, Sergeant Corey relocated to West Palm Beach, Florida in 1972 and joined the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), beginning his decades-long career as an advocate for our nation's veterans. In 1981, he founded VVA's Palm Beach County Chapter 25, which was renamed in his honor in 1991.

Sergeant Corey would go on to serve as VVA's National President and vowed, "to speak up for those veterans without a voice." He fought for mandatory funding for veterans' health care and services because he believed that "to deny adequate funding for quality health care and other services is to violate a sacred trust with the nation."

Sergeant Corey also traveled back to Vietnam more than a dozen times as a representative of the VVA's Veterans Initiative Task Force to meet with his former enemy, and work together in search of the remains of Americans and Vietnamese who lost their lives during the war. He simultaneously ran the Vietnam Veterans Peace Initiative where he spearheaded the building of a maternal health clinic in Vietnam to provide medical support to victims of Agent Orange attacks.

Sergeant Corey dedicated his life to fighting for veterans and improving access to quality health care. His work has touched the lives of generations of veterans and their families. I am proud to honor him today and express my condolences to his family, friends and to our entire community for the enormous void he leaves behind. May his memory be a blessing.